

Commercial Outdoor Storage



Improper storage of materials outdoors can cause pollutants to flow into our waterways by wind or water, which can harm aquatic life and cause human illness during water recreation. Water that flows into our storm drain system is not treated. If water contacts materials like dirt, metals, tires or car parts on its way to the storm drain, it could carry harmful pollutants. These materials must be covered, contained or elevated when stored outdoors to prevent runoff pollution. It's your responsibility to keep our waterways healthy and thriving when storing materials outdoors.

Best Management Practices (BMPs)

Follow these BMPs on how to cover, contain and elevate materials off the ground to help prevent runoff pollution.

- ◆ Store materials indoors or under roofs, awnings and tarps. Contact the City of San Diego's Development Services Department at (619) 446-5000 before installing structural coverage to see if a permit is required.
- ◆ When covering materials is not possible, contain runoff by installing berms around the stored materials or directing runoff to pervious areas.
- ◆ Use pallets or other shelving infrastructure to elevate materials off the ground.
- ◆ Utilize labeled containers with secondary containment structures.
- ◆ Properly dispose of debris and waste. Go to wastefreesd.org to find commercial material disposal locations.
- ◆ Use rags or absorbents to soak up any spills.
 - ◆ Sweep the absorbent into the spill with a hard-bristled broom and place the byproduct into a sealable container right away.
- ◆ Spills that enter a storm drain and cannot be fully recovered must be reported immediately to the City's Stormwater Hotline at (619) 235-1000.



STORMWATER REGULATIONS

Materials stored outdoors shall be covered, contained, and/or elevated to prevent stormwater and non-stormwater from contacting and transporting materials and pollutants into the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) (San Diego Municipal Code §43.0307(a)). Penalties associated with these violations can be up to \$10,000 per day per incident.